

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-8, 11 and 21 are pending in the application.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 21 have been amended and new claim 37 has been added. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-8, 11, 21 and 37 would be pending.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103:

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cornett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,216,612). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,216,612) in view of Wagner (U.S. Patent No. 4,980,826). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the reasons set forth below.

1. Claims 1 and 21:

Independent claims 1 and 21, as amended, are directed to an arrangement in which a received order for a part from one domain is judged for a kind of the order and the received order is an order for a part of a product to be produced by the production line. A machining plan is devised based on the judged order. The ordered part is expanded into its component parts (e.g., sub parts) in accordance with the machining plan. Parts order information is generated to be orders placed based on each component part information expanded in the expanding step and a pre-determined minimum order number data of each component part to be required to produce the product stored in a database and is communicated to another domain. The second domain also prevents the communications of orders between the first domain and the third domain.

On the contrary, Cornett provides a maintenance system 1 which cooperates with a manufacturing system 10 that controls the operations of a plurality of production complexes (e.g., 14A . . . 14N). Maintenance system 1 includes a controller 2 having a maintenance schedule management subsystem 3, engineering change control (ECC) management subsystem 4, parts manual management subsystem 5, spares inventory management system 6, spares inventory file 8, parts manual file 7 and master maintenance schedule file 9. Maintenance system 1 is employed to facilitate maintenance of equipment at the production complexes, such as repairs of such equipment and ordering spare parts for such equipment.

First, as noted above, Cornett as relied upon by the Examiner is directed to the maintenance and ordering of spare parts for the production machinery themselves. As such, Cornett does not disclose or suggest a received order being an order for a part of a product to be produced by the production line and, accordingly, the various claimed steps and means which are directed to the ordering of parts and components of a product to be manufactured by the production line(s).

Second, the Examiner now asserts that subsystem 3 with file 9 teaches the claimed first domain, subsystems 5, 6 and 10 and files 7 and 8 teach the claimed second domain and the supplier and vendor teach the claimed third domain. However, Cornett is still silent as to the parts manual management subsystems 5, 6 and 10 and associated files receiving an order for a part from the maintenance schedule management subsystem 3. The maintenance schedule management subsystem 3 deals with the scheduling of maintenance requests for the equipment at the production complexes. See Col. 10, lines 25 to col. 12, lines 45. Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, there is simply no suggestion provided in Col. 9, lines 45-48 and 56-64 of any order for a part being transmitted from subsystem 3 and being received by subsystems 5, 6 or 10. This

cited portion of Cornett simply indicates that the spare inventory management subsystem 6 generates orders based on maintenance schedule generated by maintenance schedule management subsystem 3. As such, Cornett does not teach the second domain receiving an order for a part from the first domain. It necessarily follows that Cornett also does not disclose or suggest the judging, devising machine plan, expanding, devising an ordering plan, ordering, communicating orders and preventing communication of orders since these are predicated on the second domain receiving an order from a first domain. The Examiner continues to perform a piecemeal reading of Cornett onto the claimed features.

Third, the Examiner asserts that the expanding means or step are taught by Figs. 10A-10D and Col. 22, line 14-Col. 23, line 11 of Cornett. However, these sections of Cornett simply describe parts manual management subsystem 5 which provides a parts manual file which stores assembly and parts lists for pieces of the complexes machinery. This facility allows an operator to view (at different hierarchical levels) the assembly, mark parts to be ordered and modify the parts list. There is nothing in Cornett which discloses or suggests expanding into component parts (e.g., sub-parts) any order from maintenance schedule management subsystem 3 and ordering the individual expanded component parts. As such, Cornett further does not disclose or suggest the claimed expansion arrangement.

Fourth, Cornett does not disclose or suggest the claimed feature to generate parts order information to be orders placed based on each component part information expanded in the expanding step and a pre-determined minimum order number data of each component part to be required to produce the product stored in a database.

Wagner does not remedy the above-noted deficiencies in the Cornett teachings.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1 and 21 and their dependent claims are distinguishable over the cited references.

2. Dependent Claim 2:

Claim 2 has been amended to recite that the domains each include the various means, e.g., receiving means, judging means, etc. Cornett, as relied upon by the Examiner, does not disclose or suggest each domain including the claimed features of the receiving, judging, devising machine plan, expanding, devising an ordering plan, ordering, communicating orders and preventing communication of orders.

Wagner does not remedy the above-noted deficiencies in the Cornett teachings.

In view of the foregoing, claim 2 is further distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4457.

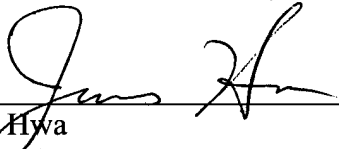
In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4457.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: _____

6/14/04

By: _____


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